

REMARKS

By this amendment, pending claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, and 16 are amended, leaving claims 5, 8, 10-15, 17-18 and 20 unchanged. Claims 4 and 19 were canceled by the previously filed amendment. New claim 21 is hereby added to more fully claim that which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant appreciates the opportunity given their counsel, Leon Nigohosian, Jr., to discuss the subject matter of the claimed invention in a telephonic interview with Examiner James M. Hewitt on January 11, 2005. The Applicant herein makes the substance of the interview of record in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.2 & 1.133(b) and M.P.E.P. § 713.04 and request a signed copy of the Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form (PTOL-413A) enclosed herewith and discussed below.

On January 11, 2005, Applicant's Attorney Leon Nigohosian, Jr. telephoned Examiner James M. Hewitt to discuss potential interview dates for inclusion in an Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form to be filed. An unexpected interview ensued regarding the differences between the devices disclosed in the prior art Jones '958 and Boaz et al. '504 patents and the rejected claims. As a substantive discussion on the merits of the instant application was not anticipated, an Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form was not previously submitted, however, said form is being submitted herewith in addition to the substance set forth below of the interview that was conducted.

During the telephone interview, it was discussed and agreed that neither the Jones '958 and Boaz et al. '504 references teach or suggest a manifold having a plurality of flow openings comprising at least one aperture defined by the at least one insert through the wall thickness. After Applicant's Attorney proposed the inclusion of this feature in independent

claims 1 and 16, Examiner Hewitt thought that such a change would render the claims allowable, however, would raise a new issue for consideration. Accordingly, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant files herewith a Request for Continued Examination concurrently with this Amendment making the changes discussed with Examiner Hewitt.

Applicant respectfully submits that no matter is added by the claim amendments above with support being provided by description and figures of the specification as originally filed.

The Applicant hereby respectfully submits that the present invention as claimed is patentable over the prior art and that the application is in condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of the present application, as amended, is therefore respectfully requested. Should there be any remaining question or suggestion with respect to this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at the number appearing below.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 13-3080 of any fees associated with this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

January 12, 2005
Date

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Enclosure: Two (2) Copies of Form PTOL-413A

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